

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

Claim 1 (original): An apparatus for leveling and smoothing comprising:

a smoothing float having a smoothing surface, said smoothing surface opposing a blade-connecting surface;

a leveling blade having an edge formed between a float-connecting surface and an opposing pull-connecting surface;

a resilient connection between said float-connecting surface and said blade-connecting surface, said resilient connection forming an angle between said float-connecting surface and said blade-connecting surface, said angle ranging from 0° to 180°; and

a pulling means, said pulling means having a pulling end and a blade-connecting end, said blade-connecting end having a mating attachment to said pull-connecting surface, said mating attachment connecting said pulling means to said leveling blade.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said smoothing float is made from material selected from a group consisting of aluminum and rubber.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said leveling blade is made from material selected from a group consisting of aluminum, wood, and rubber.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said resilient connection comprises a connecting strip, said connecting strip having cement-pulling properties.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said connecting strip is made from material selected from a group consisting of wood, magnesium-based metal, rubber, and plastic.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said pulling means is selected from a group consisting of a handle, a rope, and a chain.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said mating attachment is selected from a group consisting of rigid and articulated.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said mating attachment comprises a mounting bracket.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a vibration means, said vibration means being attached to said pull-connecting surface.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said pulling end further comprises an extension means for elongating said pulling end.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for making an apparatus for leveling and smoothing; ~~said method~~ comprising the steps of:

fabricating a connecting strip;

fabricating a smoothing float, ~~said~~ the smoothing float having a smoothing surface and an opposing blade-connecting surface;

fabricating a leveling blade, ~~said~~ the leveling blade having a float-connecting surface and an opposing pull-connecting surface;

resiliently attaching ~~said~~ the connecting strip to ~~said~~ the float-connecting surface and ~~said~~ the blade-connecting surface, said step of resiliently attaching having the effect of forming an angle between ~~said~~ the leveling blade and ~~said~~ the smoothing float in the range of 0° and 180°; and

matingly attaching a pulling means to ~~said~~ the pull-connecting surface.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of:
attaching a vibrating means to ~~said~~ the pull-connecting surface.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 further comprising the step of:

~~wherein said selecting~~ smoothing float ~~is made from material selected~~ from a group consisting of aluminum and rubber.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 further comprising the step of:
~~wherein said selecting~~ leveling blade ~~is made from material selected~~ from a group consisting of aluminum, wood, and rubber.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 further comprising the step of:
~~wherein said selecting~~ connecting strip material from a group consisting of materials having has cement-pulling properties.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 further comprising the step of:
~~wherein said selecting~~ connecting strip ~~is made from material selected~~ from a group consisting of wood, magnesium-based metal, rubber, and plastic.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 further comprising the step of:
~~wherein said selecting~~ the pulling means ~~is selected~~ from a group consisting of handles, ropes, and chains ~~a handle, a rope, and a chain~~.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 further comprising the step of:
~~wherein said fabricating the~~ pulling means to be extendible ~~further comprises a means for~~ extension.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method as in claim 11 wherein said step of matingly attaching further comprises the step of:
affixing a mounting bracket between ~~said~~ the pulling means and ~~said~~ the pull-connecting surface.

Claim 20 (new): A method of use of an apparatus for leveling and smoothing unhardened concrete comprising the steps of:

positioning a user outside an area having the unhardened concrete;

positioning the apparatus atop the unhardened concrete;

grasping, by the user, a handle of the apparatus, the handle being connected to a leveling blade followed by a connected smoothing float, the smoothing float being connected by a connecting strip;

orienting the apparatus such that the leveling blade faces the user;

pulling the apparatus towards the user, the leveling blade leveling and smoothing the unhardened concrete by striking off excess unhardened concrete, the smoothing float following the leveling blade, the smoothing float smoothing the unhardened concrete, the connecting strip causing cement paste in the unhardened concrete to float atop the unhardened concrete.